

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
33-15

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #
16

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place

Address **617 Main Street**

Historic Name **Cole House**

Use: **Present residence**

Original residence

Date **before 1830; c. 1750**

Source **maps & White's Houses**

Style/Form **two-room center chimney**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **stone**

Wall/Trim **shingle**

Roof **asphalt**

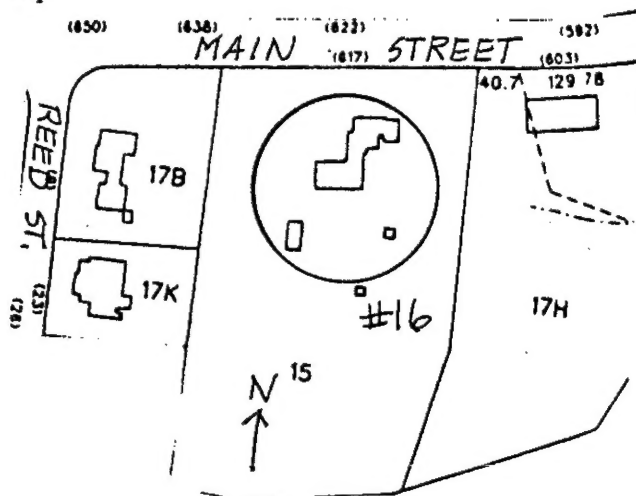
Outbuildings **stable**

Major Alterations **none**

Condition **excellent**

Photo roll/frame **8/3, 4**

Sketch Map



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Cole House at 617 Main Street is a modest and unusual one-and-one-half story, center chimney gabled rectangle. The form is unusual for Hanson and maybe a rare example of a two-room house. The entry at the second bay of the four-bay facade appears to lead to a small lobby in front of the chimney bay. Several small-scaled additional masses augment the well-preserved single-pile block. These include a one-story gable- and shed-roofed service ell and a one-room, hip-roofed addition on the left gable end. A small enclosed bay and porch run the depth of the ell. The sizable gabled barn is connected to the ell, sited parallel to the house. Ornament is minimal, consisting of a molded cornice, corner boards, and flat surrounds on the 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Several sizable trees screen the well-maintained, slightly rural, property from the heavily trafficked roadway.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Main Street has long been a primary east-west thoroughfare in South Hanson. By 1830 houses were loosely scattered the length of the roadway, generally on the northern side. The Cole House was one of three houses on the south side of Main Street between Pleasant Street and High Street in 1830. Historic maps indicate J. Cole, about whom nothing is known at this time, owned the house in 1830. White indicates the house was constructed by Cole, but a plaque on the house suggests the building dates to the middle of the eighteenth century, constructed by Deacon Daniel Crooker. That information cannot be confirmed at this time. Additional research is necessary to identify the house's original owner and determine the original date of construction. The next identified owner was S.G. Thatcher who owned the house by 1856 and still owned the house twenty-three years later. In 1856 the house was only valued at \$300 and the barn at \$75. Thatcher owned only three acres of land (English mowing and tillage) but his personal estate included \$300 of railroad stock and the sizable cash sum of \$700. By the turn of the twentieth century the house belonged to Charles H. Stetson, whose wife still owned the house in the early 1930s.

REFERENCES

- Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
- Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856
- Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879
- White, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1893

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community
Hanson

Property Address
617 Main Street

Area

Form #
16

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.